

News Summary and Index

NYTimes TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1974 MAY 14 1974

The Major Events of the Day

International

A majority of Italians want to retain the country's divorce law, final returns of a two-day referendum indicated. More than 59.1 per cent of the 32 million ballots upheld the law that since 1970 has made divorce possible in Italy. Votes in favor of repealing the law totaled 40.9 per cent. [1:4.]

The next 24 to 48 hours will probably be decisive in Secretary of State Kissinger's efforts to mediate between Israel and Syria, American officials said in Jerusalem. Negotiations apparently entered a crucial phase the officials reported, and they said that Israeli and Syrian differences over a new demarcation line had been reduced to "a few kilometers." [1:5.]

At least 400 million children—the figure may be as high as 500 million—in poor countries face severe malnutrition—even starvation, Henry R. Labouisse, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund said. He told a board meeting of UNICEF that the situation was sufficiently grave for the board to consider declaring an emergency. [1:1.]

National

Prominent Senate conservatives of both parties said that they had no intention of pressing either publicly or privately for President Nixon's resignation. They appeared to have decided that they should stand fast and await developments in the House Judiciary Committee and the full House. [1:8.]

A survey by The New York Times of 65 Republican party leaders in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut found that an overwhelming majority believe that President Nixon should not resign, but they are withholding judgment on his guilt or innocence in the Watergate case. Eleven said the President should quit. The majority view was expressed by Thomas M. Mackinnon, the Republican chairman of Erie County, which includes Buffalo. "He should not resign; it is a constitutional question and we have a constitutional process we should go by." [1:7.]

Highly reliable sources reported that President Nixon, in a letter sent two weeks ago to Judge Gerhard A. Gesell of Federal District Court in Washington, said that the White House "p'numbers" unit was operating

under a general delegation of his Presidential authority when it broke into the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist in 1971. Judge Gesell will preside over the trial of the six men who have been indicted in the break-in. [1:6-7.]

The Supreme Court ruled that a group of narcotics sellers were illegally convicted in 1970 because the Department of Justice obtained evidence against them with invalid wiretapping orders. The decision appeared to wipe out convictions of more than 600 other Federal offenders against whom the same kind of tainted evidence was used. The writtap orders were issued when John N. Mitchell was Attorney General. [1:1.]

The country's six largest cities would get most of the \$24-billion in mass-transit funds that would be provided under legislation being prepared by the House Public Works Committee. The funds would be used for capital and operating expenses over the next six years and would provide \$8-billion more than requested by President Nixon. They would be provided by new revenues rather than from highway funds, as proposed by the Administration. [1:2.]

Metropolitan

Paul Lutig was dismissed as president of the financially pressed Franklin National Bank by its directors, who disclosed that an executive vice chairman and director had resigned after the discovery of large foreign-exchange trading losses. The directors ratified other moves that had been announced in the last few days—omission of second-quarter dividends, normally payable Aug. 1, by the Franklin New York Corporation, the bank's parent company, and plans to sell \$50-million of common stock. A whole new management program is in view, Harold V. Gleason, the bank's chairman and chief executive officer said. He has taken the additional title of vice president. [1:2-3.]

All major industries in the metropolitan area and the city, state and Federal governments will have to pay the Consolidated Edison Company monthly interest of 1.5 per cent, or 18 per cent a year, for late payment of bills. The Public Service Commission announced in Albany that it had approved the utility's interest rate schedule, which will become effective Thursday. [1:3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"Now, with the costs of food and notably of fertilizer, rising sharply, there is the serious threat of an increasing number of recognized families and, more generally, of a widespread deterioration of nutrition among young children of lower-income families"—Henry R. Labouisse of the United Nations Children's Fund. [5:1.]

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